the same land, then there is the scope for applying the rule of preference. Was there a case in which they were not given preference, and preference was given to somebody else?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In answer to a question put last time the Government had given a list containing the areas assigned to different classes of people, and in that few acres of land are seen assigned to the depressed classes, whereas large areas are given to other classes of people.

President.—Should they not come with the application? How else can we assign lands to them?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—They ought to be encouraged to bring in applications.

President.—You should encourage.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do encourage. From the statement it will be seen that they are not given any encouragement to put in applications. When we consider their population with the area of land available, I think they should be given more.

President.—Practical instances must be referred to here. A general statement will not suffice. "In a particular case such and such a man belonging to the depressed class applied for the assignment of a particular land. He was not given. It was given to somebody else. Is this the encouragement you give to the depressed classes?" That would appeal to us, and then, you should bring pressure upon the Government to do the right thing. You should bring in such practical instances.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—I shall also give an instance where encouragement has been given by the Government to the depressed classes. Lands in the Kodasseri Reserved Forests are being leased out to the depressed classes. More than 100 acres of land have been leased out to the depressed classes, one acre for each man. We do not give them assignments of these lands for many reasons mentioned by me on a previous occasion; they might assign these lands to some other person.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to place a list of such lands available for assignment in all the Revenue villages of the State as is being done in Travancore?

President.—That question does not arise.

66. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state,—

(a) whether the Government have enquired that in Travancore any Pulaya or Pariah can occupy a *pudual* land and making some improvements in it, can claim them for himself, and in all Village Offices a list of land available is published;

(b) whether the Government will adopt this course for helping the so-called depressed classes in our State?

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Mr. P. Dmodara Menon.—(a) Yes, but full information is not yet to hand.

(b) The question does not arise now.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have the Government called for further information in this matter?

Mr. P. Damodara Menon.—We are still making enquiries.

Licenses for tapping.

67. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to place on the Member's table a comparative statement containing the number of trees licensed for tapping in 1101 and 1102; and of these how many were licensed for (a) fermented toddy, (b) sweet toddy and (c) bakery; and of these how many were cocoanut trees, palmyras and sagos; and to state what steps have been taken to reduce consumption in 1102, and what is their result?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—A statement showing the particulars of trees licensed in 1101 and 1102 (till Edavam) is appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

Steps taken to reduce consumption.

In 1102 the number of toddy shops was reduced by 11, and the tree tax was also raised in the Southern Taluks from Rs. 4, Rs. 8 and Rs. 1½ per cocoanut, sago and palmyra tree respectively per year to Rs. 5, Rs. 10 and Rs. 2 respectively.

Results.—It would appear that, *prima facie*, there has been no reduction in consumption, as there is an increase in the number of trees tapped. But in effect there could be no appreciable increase in consumption for the following reasons:—

A large number of trees had to be taken on account of the paucity in the yield of the trees due to an acute form of cocoanut disease, want of timely rains and the growth of population.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Does the cocoanut disease affect the palmyara and the sago trees also?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Then why do we find an increase in their numbers also?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There was no increase in sago and palmyra.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In the case of palmyras, we find the number of trees licensed for tapping for toddy for 1101 is 8,256, and the number licensed till the end of Edavam 1102 is 9,176, and you might give licenses during the months of Mithunam and Karkadagam also. Again, in the case of sago also, we find the number for 1101 is 4,460 and the number for 1102 up to the end of Edavam is 4,547. There is an increase in both.

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